

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive toy for cats comprising:

a plurality of vertically sequential tiers, each tier having at least one beam, the beam being substantially horizontal;

at least one beam end bumper covering a first end of a first beam;

each beam of the tiers above the lowest tier having suspended therefrom at least one member selected from the group consisting of: cat attractants, beams and combinations thereof; wherein

each of the beams of the lowest tier having suspended therefrom a plurality of cat attractants; whereby

contact with one cat attractant causes dynamically linked motions of the beams and the other cat attractants, and contact with one beam causes dynamically linked motions of the beams and other cat attractants.

2. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the cat attractants are in visual proximity to each other.

3. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the cat attractants further comprise simulated prey suspended at least in part by their tails.

4. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein at least one cat attractant further comprises one member selected from the group consisting of:

spoons, feathers, fabric strips, balls, metal disks, simulated birds, bells, reflective objects, simulated solitary prey, simulated group prey, lights, hookless fishing lures, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, further comprising:

suspension means for suspending the cat toy from above, the topmost tier being suspended therefrom.

6. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, further comprising:

a suspension device, the topmost tier being suspended from the suspension device.

7. (Original) The cat toy of claim 6, wherein the suspension device further comprises one member selected from the group consisting of: a hook, an eye-hole screw, a bracket and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein

suspension of the tiers is accomplished by means of one member selected from the group consisting of: strips of fabric, monofilament lines, strings, wires, chains and combinations thereof;

wherein such suspension members are strong enough to resist breaking by a prey animal using the cat toy.

9. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the beams further comprise at least one small notch, and further wherein at least one suspension member wraps around at least one beam at the small notch.

10. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the suspension members are secured to the beams by means of one member selected from the group consisting of: adhesive, passing through the beams, wrapping around the beams, hooks, swivels, and combinations thereof.

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the beam end bumper further comprises a cat attractant.

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Original) The cat toy of claim 1, wherein the cat toy is suspended at a height such that the prey animal may reach the cat attractants suspended from the bottom tier when the cat toy is not in motion.

16. (Currently Amended) An interactive toy for cats, the cat toy being rotatably suspended, the cat toy comprising:

a first tier comprising a first beam, the first beam having suspended therefrom at least one additional beam;

beam coating covering at least a portion of one of the beams;

at least one beam having suspended and balanced therefrom a plurality of suspended cat attractants, wherein

the cat attractants are in visual proximity to each other, whereby dynamically linked responsive motions of the tiers are provided.

17. (Currently Amended) An improved interactive cat toy, of the suspended type, wherein the improvement comprises:

multiple tiers at different levels;

a primary axis at the highest tier suspending the remainder of the interactive cat toy; and

a multiplicity of cat attractants suspended symmetrically by weight about the axis of suspension and suspended in vertically layered tiers;

a climbing object suitable for climbing by a prey animal, the cat toy suspended substantially above the climbing object at a height requiring the prey animal to climb the object in order to play with the cat toy;

whereby, a multiplicity of cat attractants are suspended in dynamic linkage with one another in order to simulate flocking behavior of prey.